

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-5 and 7-24 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 23 and 24 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is presented herein.

Specification

The specification has been objected to for introduction of new matter with the amendment filed 9/11/2006.

Page 4 and page 5 of the specification have been amended to restore the wording of the specification as originally filed.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 3-5 and 7-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 23 and 24 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner and now recite: "*In a cigar maker, a machine for conditioning cigars comprises...*".

Furthermore, according to the Examiner, it is not clear in claims 1 and 23 what the phrase "*connected directly*" means.

The word "*directly*" has been deleted accordingly.

In view of the above, it is believed that the rejection under § 112 has been overcome. Therefore, independent claims 1, 23 and 24 are believed allowable.

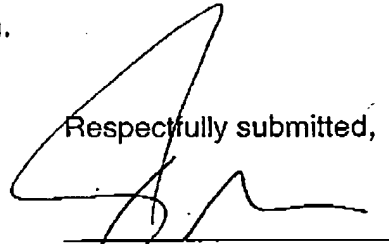
Claims 4, 5 and 7-22 depend from allowable claims 1, 23 or 24 and are also believed allowable.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All matters are addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicant's counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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